1	2	3	4	5	6
28	Chandigarh	2006	1	3	69
		2007	*	*	07
29	D&N Haveli	2006	*	*	02
		2007	*	*	*
30	Pondicherry	2006	113	23	10
		2007	423	38	00
	TOTAL	2006	74249	4798	24708
		2007	59330	4173	21744
	GRAND TOTAL =2006+2007		133579	8971	46252

* Information not received.

Self Help Groups as PDS franchises

1595. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) as PDS system has been grossly abused and intended beneficiaries are deprived of this higly subsidized mechanism, whether Government would examine to use SHGs as PDS franchises as is being done in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether a time-bound study group will be constituted for this purpose so that it could in-depth examine how the 500 SHGs successfully retail PDS commodities serving over 2,15,000 households in Tamil Nadu and 5600 SHGs involved in retailing kerosene in Orissa; and

(c) whether a pilot project would be undertaken in a few select intially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for identification of eligible BPL and AAY familes within the respective number of BPL households estimated by the Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them, allocation of foodgrains within the State/UT and proper distribution of allocated TPDS foodgrains to eligible families through fair price shops rests with State/UT Governments.

In consultation with State and UT Governments, it was decided that licenses for Fair Price Shop (FPS) could be issued on priority to cooperatives of women and Ex-servicemen. Accordingly State and UT Governments have been requested to take action.

State and UT Government have again been advised to allot FPS to Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs), cooperatives, Villages Panchayats and Urban local bodies, by withdrawing them from private persons, as has been done in Chhattisgarh and Orissa.